REMARKS

The office action of March 28, 2003, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-4, 8-12 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nelson et al. in view of Koren.

Claims 6-7 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nelson et al. in view of Koren, and further in view of Tebbe et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claims 2, 9-11, 13 and 14, and amended claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

The references have been discussed in detail in the last filed amendment. Rather than repeat that discussion here, applicant incorporates it herein by reference. The combination of

references does not teach or suggest a transport disc having the unique combination of features now recited in the claims. Namely, the combination of references does not teach a transport disc configured to be arranged on a first opening drum of the opening device, wherein the transport disc comprises at least one outer elastic support. The outer elastic support is configured to cooperate with a securing disc of a second opening drum of the opening device to clamp an individual printed sheet between the outer elastic support and the securing disc for transporting the individual printed sheet to a transport device. The outer elastic support is a rubber-elastic segment body extending in a circumferential direction of the transport disc. The rubber-elastic segment body is comprised of an outer bearing layer and a compensation area positioned radially inwardly underneath the outer bearing layer. The compensation area is radially yielding and supports the outer bearing layer and is more elastic in the radial direction than the outer bearing layer. The compensation area has a plurality of stays each having a first end connected to the outer bearing layer and each having a second end positioned radially inwardly of the respective first end. The stays are formed as ledges or lamellas and are positioned at a slant to a radial line extending in a radial direction from the

first end to a center of the transport disc, respectively. A transport disc having this unique arrangement of features is not taught by the cited references.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

Dated: October 24, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 24, 2003.

By: _____
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: October 24, 2003